

QUESTIONS FOR WORLDWIDE INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

Tuesday, January 23, 1979

CHINA-TAIWAN

Admiral Turner, do you see any prospect of military action by the Chinese against Taiwan?

How do you assess their military capability to launch an invasion on Taiwan?

What will be the impact on the Far Eastern military balance of the termination of the U.S.-Taiwan Mutual Defense Treaty?

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VIETNAM-CAMBODIA

Admiral, what is the Agency's assessment of Vietnamese aims in Cambodia? Are they likely to move into Thailand as well?

Do the Vietnamese wish to take over Cambodia or simply install a puppet government?

Do you see any likelihood that the Chinese will intervene on behalf of their Cambodian friends?

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It is our assessment that Vietnam intends to remain in force in Cambodia as long as necessary to sustain a nominally independent pro-Hanoi government in Phnom Penh. Anti-Vietnamese resistance forces have been very effective so far and are likely to contest Hanoi for control of the country for the foreseeable future. Chinese military buildup on Vietnam's northern border and the scale of the resistance in Cambodia severely limit Vietnam's ability to move against Thailand, even if it chose to do so. Hanoi, in fact, has attempted to reassure Bangkok that it has no hostile intentions toward Thailand, since it realizes that a hostile approach could encourage Bangkok to openly or actively support the anti-Vietnamese resistance.

China has stated it will not send its own forces to fight in Cambodia. Beijing, however, has not ruled out the possibility of launching a punitive strike across the border into northern Vietnam and has positioned forces for such an attack ~~should it choose this course.~~

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It is our judgment that China does not have the military capability to launch a successful invasion of Taiwan nor the political inclination to do so. At present, Beijing is far more concerned with developing its relations with the United States and about the buildup of Soviet forces on its northern border and the expansion of Vietnamese influence in Indochina. China has redeployed some of its forces in recent weeks to meet these challenges. But we see no significant impact on the Far Eastern military balance as a result of termination of the US-Taiwan Mutual Defense Treaty.

from the Taiwan Strait area

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MEMORANDUM FOR: NIO/CH
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These are the follow-up questions
to the SAS Worldwide briefing.
Please provide me with brief
answers for the record.



CSS/NFAC

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